



9

The Exodus from Egypt

Key Themes

- God faithfully provides for the needs of His people.
- God is faithful to His promises.

Key Passages

- Genesis 15:13–14; Exodus 3:19–22, 14:5–31, 16:2–3, 16:11–12, 17:3, 17:6

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how God was faithful to the promises He had made hundreds of years before to free His people from Egypt.
- Provide examples of God's faithfulness in providing for the Israelites during the Exodus.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will assemble the Exodus 20 Memory Verse puzzle, using their Bibles or the Memory Verse poster as a guide. Save the puzzle pieces. They will be used again in Lessons 10–12.



Activity 1: God Is Faithful to His Promises

page 5

Students will do motions as the teacher reads an account of Exodus 14. They will then answer questions about the account on the worksheet as the class progresses.



Studying God's Word

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Moses led the people from Egypt, fulfilling the promise to Abraham made more than 400 years before. The Israelites immediately doubted God as the Egyptian army pursued them. Their complaints continued despite God's constant faithfulness to provide for all of their needs.



Activity 2: Pack a Backpack

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Students will participate in a relay race in which they pack a backpack with items they may need if going on a long journey.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print and cut out one Exodus 20 Memory Verse puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Bring in plastic bags or envelopes to keep the Memory Verse puzzles in.

- Exodus 20 Memory Verse puzzle for each student
- Bags or envelopes to keep the Memory Verse puzzles in



GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES

- Print one God Is Faithful worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your own use.

- God Is Faithful worksheets for each student
- God is Faithful answer key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



PACK A BACKPACK

- Gather items to fill two backpacks with things needed for a journey. You will need enough items so that each student will have something to put in a backpack.

- Two each of:
 - Backpack
 - Flashlight
 - Energy bar
 - Coins
 - Compass (or map)
 - Socks, cap, clothing
 - Water bottle
 - Bible



Memory Verse

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them.”

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare for the lesson, read and meditate on the following passages: Genesis 15:13–14; Exodus 3:19–22, 14:5–31, 16:2–3, 16:11–12, 17:3–6.

Nearly 500 years before the Exodus, God told Abraham that his descendants would go into slavery and then “come out with great possessions” (Genesis 15:14). Following the final plague on Egypt—the death of the firstborn all across Egypt—Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go. As this huge group of former slaves (some estimate more than two million) left, these words came true as they plundered the Egyptians, taking “articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing” (Exodus 12:35).

God took them along a route through the wilderness by the Red Sea. And He went before them “by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night” (Exodus 13:21).

As they approached the sea, Pharaoh began his pursuit. With the large Egyptian army in pursuit, the Israelites became afraid and began to complain to Moses: “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness” (Exodus 14:11–12).

With the Israelites afraid, fearful for their lives, and holding God to blame, God showed His faithfulness and provided them with safety. He parted the sea and they crossed on dry ground (Exodus 14:21–22) with the Egyptians drowning in pursuit. God showed Himself faithful and His name was exalted (Exodus 14:30–31). Israel saw God’s amazing power and faithfulness.

The departure from Israel out of Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea is one of the most dramatic events in all of the Bible; the biblical writers repeatedly refer to it as the most significant sign of God’s love for Israel. A helpless, enslaved people were delivered from their enemies by their powerful Redeemer God. They celebrated their victory with a song of praise (Exodus 15:1–2):

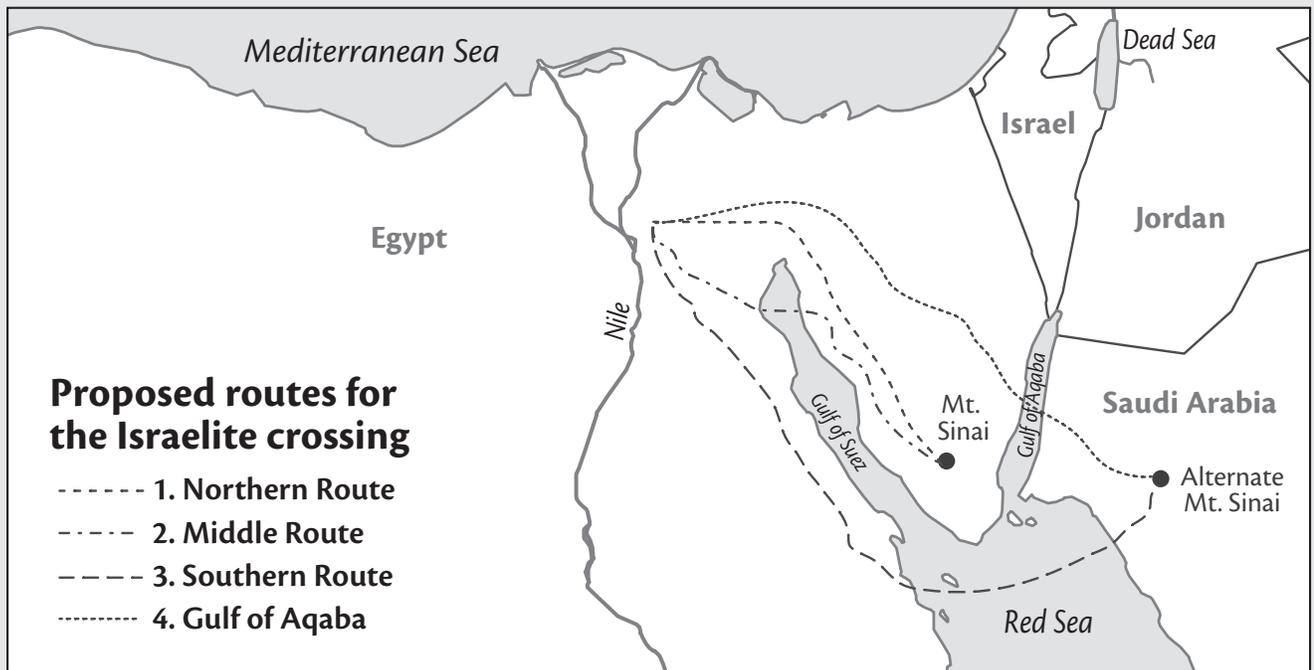
I will sing to the Lord
For He has triumphed gloriously!
The horse and its rider
He has thrown into the sea!
The Lord is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise Him;
My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

For many years scholars have disagreed over the exact location of the Israelites’ crossing and thus the site of the drowning of Pharaoh’s army. Four routes for the Exodus have been proposed and continue to be debated. Keep in mind that the crossing of the Israelites is not in question here—just the exact location. God’s Word reveals this historical event—and we believe it! (See next page for a map of the four proposed routes.)

1. Some believe that the Israelites took a northern route and crossed a shallow lake north of the Red Sea—near either Lake Timsah or one of the Bitter Lakes. The theory is that during the time of the Exodus—nearly 3,500 years ago—there was much more water in this area than today.
2. Other scholars prefer a middle route, putting the crossing of the Israelites through the Gulf of Suez. The Gulf of Suez is quite shallow with an average depth of 40 feet, making a passing here quite possible.
3. Some prefer a far-south crossing, below the Sinai Peninsula, across the Red Sea proper. This would take considerably more time for the Israelites to travel as they fled the Egyptians, and the underwater topography of the Red Sea would be prohibitive for a crossing here, being up to 300 feet deep.
4. One researcher has proposed that the crossing was actually at the Gulf of Aqaba and that the Israelites crossed the Sinai Peninsula while the Egyptian armies were chasing them, which seems a bit difficult given the time it would take to move more than two million people that far in only a few days’ time.

While we may not know what exact route the Israelites took during the Exodus, or the exact body of water they crossed, we stand on the authority of God’s Word as a true record of history. Archaeological findings are sparse, extra-biblical historical records are incomplete, and the topography has changed much over the years. Although we don’t know for sure where the crossing was, we know it was a monumental event demonstrating God’s omnipotence and glory. One author of several works on biblical history offers this perspective: “The crossing of Israel . . . cannot be explained as a wading through a swamp. It required a mighty act of God, an act so significant both in scope and meaning that forever after in Israel’s history it was the paradigm against which all of his redemptive and saving work was measured” (Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, 1987, p. 66).



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After many decades of slavery to the Egyptian pharaohs, during which time the Israelites were subjected to backbreaking labor and unbearable horrors, God saw the people’s distress and sent Moses to Pharaoh with a message: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness” (Exodus 7:16). But despite numerous warnings, Pharaoh refused to heed God’s command. God then sent upon Egypt 10 devastating plagues, afflicting them and destroying everything from their livestock to their crops.

The final plague hit at midnight on the fifteenth of Nisan as all the firstborn in the land of Egypt began to die, including the firstborn of Pharaoh himself, exactly as Moses had warned (Exodus 12:29). However, God had instructed the Israelites how they would avoid the final plague:

Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. (Exodus 12:21–23)

Thus, the children of Israel were spared as God

“passed over” their homes—hence the name of the holiday Jews still celebrate today—Passover.

In the New Testament we see the Lord’s Supper at the heart of the Passover meal. This explains both the importance of the first Passover in Egypt and the Passover Jesus Himself officiated over (Matthew 26:17–29). The meaning is significant and poignant. Jesus Christ is Himself the Passover Lamb, offered up for the redemption and deliverance of His people (1 Corinthians 5:7). He’s the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The bread and wine speak of His death and of the New Covenant it ratified, reconciling God and man. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of Me” (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24–25), telling His disciples that the Passover is fulfilled in Him. Until He comes again (Luke 22:18; 1 Corinthians 11:26), we are to remember the significance of what He has done for us by partaking the Lord’s Supper.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Thank you, Lord, that you are faithful to provide, protect, guide, and comfort in all situations. Help me to trust confidently in you and your promises, whatever the circumstances. Please Lord, open the minds of the children to understand and trust you better—to begin to see that you will provide according to your Word and that you are honored when we turn to you in prayer for our needs rather than complaining and whining.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will put together the Exodus 20 Memory Verse puzzles you prepared before class. (Encourage them to use their Bibles or the Memory Verse poster to help guide them with the puzzle.) You may want them to work in teams to accomplish this.

Save the Memory Verse puzzles to use as the Come On In activity in Lessons 10–12.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



God Is Faithful to His Promises

MATERIALS

- God Is Faithful to His Promises worksheet for each student
- God Is Faithful to His Promises answer key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out a God Is Faithful to His Promises worksheet and pencil to each student. As the lesson progresses, the students will circle the correct answers on their worksheets.

As we listen to the passages in today's lesson, you will use this worksheet to answer questions about the Scriptures.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we read and study the Word today we are going to see that God was faithful to the promise He made to Abraham to deliver His people from the slavery of Egypt. We will also see that God provided for His people—even in the midst of their ungrateful complaints.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Genesis 15:13–14

We have a lot to do today. But first we are going to set the stage for our exciting lesson. Let's start! Listen as I read Genesis 15:13–14. *Allow students to turn to the passage, and read it to the students.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Reread the verses as needed in order to encourage the children to get the answers from the text.

? As you answer my questions, I want you to circle the answers on your worksheets. Who is speaking? *God. Have children circle "God" for question 1.*

? And who is God speaking to? *Abram. Have children circle "Abram" for question 2.*

We know that Abram is the same person as Abraham. God changed his name later. God was telling Abram something about his descendants—those who would come after him.

God told Abram his descendants would be strangers in a land that was not theirs. God said they would be slaves there for a long time.

? How long did God say they would be there? Look at your worksheet. Which number should we circle? *400 years.*

That's a long time for the people to be slaves. But then God made a promise.

? Listen to verse 14 again. *Read the verse.* What words should we circle next to question 4 to show what God said he would do to the people who made the Israelites slaves? *Judge them.*

? What should we circle by question 5 to show what God said the Israelites would have when they left the strange land? *Great possessions. That means they would leave with many wonderful things, many riches.*

This was a promise God made to Abram. This was long before Moses, but God was setting the stage for what was to come.

Exodus 3:19–22

Now let's see how those promises were fulfilled. Listen carefully while I read from Exodus 3. *Read Exodus 3:19–22 to the students.*

? Who is God speaking to here? *Moses. Have children circle "Moses" for question 6.*

? What country was God going to strike? *Egypt. Have children circle "Egypt" for question 7.*

God warned Moses that the king of Egypt would not want to let the people go. But God had promises for Moses and the people. God promised that He would stretch out His hand against Egypt. God said that when the Israelites left Egypt they would take something with them.

? What did God promise the people would take with them? *Silver, gold, and clothing. Have children circle “silver, gold, and clothing” for question 8.*

Discover the Truth

God is truly amazing! He told Abraham in Genesis what would happen to the Israelites in Egypt over 400 years before it happened. And then He told Moses in Exodus what would happen—again, before it ever happened. *Refer to the Seven C’s Timeline to make the point that God made His promises a long time before they occurred.*

God is faithful to His promises. And when God says He will do something, He means it. As we have seen in our study of Exodus, the Israelites were held as slaves in Egypt, just like God said they would be. God would judge Egypt with 10 plagues, just like He said He would. And when the people left Egypt, they would leave with lots of riches, including silver, gold, and clothing—just like God said they would. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster—Faithful.*



FAITHFUL

(Refer to Attributes poster.)

READ THE WORD

As we continue, I want you to watch me as I tell what happened next in Exodus 14. I want you to do what I do and act out what is happening.

Pharaoh told the Israelites to go. *Point as if you are saying, “Go!”* But Pharaoh changed his mind. *Look angry, fold arms over chest, and shake your head no.*

The hearts of Pharaoh and his servants were turned against the people. *Make a fist over your heart.* They said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” *Exodus 14:5.*

So Pharaoh took his chariot and his soldiers and went after the Israelites. He took over 600 chariots. *Pretend you are driving a chariot.* The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel. *Make a fist over your heart.* Pharaoh, his horsemen, and his army overtook the Israelites camping by the sea. *Exodus 14:6–9.*

When the Israelites saw the Egyptians coming after them, *put your hand above your eyes like you are looking off into the distance,* they were very afraid, and they cried out to the Lord. *Put your hands in praying position and shiver like you are afraid.* *Exodus 14:10.*

But instead of trusting God to help them, they got angry with Moses. *Put your hands on your hips.* They said, “Have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why did you bring us out of Egypt? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” *Exodus 14:11–12.*

Then Moses said, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.” *Stand tall and look up.* “You will never see the Egyptians again. The Lord will fight for you.” *Exodus 14:13–14.*

Exodus 14:5–14

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Great acting! Now I'm going to ask a few questions about those events to see how well you were listening. We will be circling more answers on our worksheets.

- ? Look at question 9 on your worksheet. Did Pharaoh's heart become softer or did it become harder when he knew the Israelites were gone? *Exodus 14:5. It became harder. Have children circle "harder" for question 9.*
- ? What did Pharaoh do? *Exodus 14:6. Went after the Israelites. Have children circle "went after the Israelites" for question 10.*
- ? What did Pharaoh take with him? *Exodus 14:7. 600 chariots, soldiers. Have children circle "600 chariots, soldiers" for question 11.*

The people were angry with Moses for leading them to this dangerous place.

- ? Then Moses told them not to be afraid. Who did Moses say would help them? *Exodus 14:14. The Lord. Have children circle "the Lord" for question 12.*

Moses said the Lord would help them and they would never see the Egyptians again.

Discover the Truth

God had promised to deliver the Israelites. They had seen all that God could do; they witnessed His power during the plagues and were spared death during the Passover and the last plague of death. Yet here they were—afraid and blaming Moses for their trouble. They had lost their trust in God to deliver them even now.

How easy it is to forget what God has done in the past and to begin to lose faith in Him. Yet, as we have said so many times, God is faithful. He will keep His promises. His Word is true. He cannot lie! We are called to trust Him through all things—good and bad—just like the Israelites were supposed to. Moses told them not to be afraid but to watch what God would do.



READ THE WORD

Exodus 14:15–31

So what did God do, even though the Israelites were complaining, afraid, and blaming Moses? I want to tell you. This is found in Exodus 14:15–31. Turn to Exodus 14 in your Bibles before I begin. *At this point, you will not read all of this, but tell it in your own words—see below.*

God had promised to save His people, and He did! The people were afraid. Pharaoh and his armies and his 600 chariots were coming toward them to kill them or bring them back to Egypt—back to slavery.

Then God did something that only He could do. He told Moses to lift up his rod and stretch his hand over the sea. When Moses did that, the sea parted! The water became a wall on the right hand and a wall on the left and the seabed was dry! The Israelites stepped into the seabed and crossed to the other side of the Red Sea. A pillar of cloud moved behind them. The cloud kept the Egyptians away until all of the Israelites, including Moses, were on the other side.

When the cloud moved again, Pharaoh saw the Israelites on the other side of the Red Sea. He and his army rushed after them. The Egyptians thought they could cross over just like the Israelites. But God had a plan to stop them. After the chariots entered the seabed, God made the wheels fall off the chariots! Then the soldiers were afraid and wanted to turn back. They knew that God was fighting for the Israelites. Before they could escape, however, God told Moses to stretch his hand over the sea again. When he did, the two walls of water rushed back into the seabed and drowned all of the Egyptian warriors!

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who was in control of this entire situation? *God.*
- ? Who did God use to help Him lead the people to safety? *Moses.*

God told Moses to stretch out his hand, and the Lord caused the sea to move and dry land to appear. The Israelites walked across on dry land.

Exodus 14:21.

- ? What did the Egyptians do when they saw the Israelites walking across the dry sea floor? *Exodus 14:23. They followed the Israelites.*
- ? What did God do to the Egyptians' chariots? *Exodus 14:25. God took the wheels off the chariots.*

When the wheels came off the chariots, the Egyptians said, "Let's run! The Lord fights for these people." *Exodus 14:25.*

- ? Then what happened to the Egyptians? *Exodus 14:28. The water came over them and killed all of them.*

Discover the Truth

The Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, just like He had promised to do. The Egyptian warriors were dead. The Lord is faithful and will do all that He promises to do. Israel saw God's power in Egypt and at the Red Sea. And the Bible says that the people believed the Lord and believed Moses.

God was exalted and the Israelites were delivered by God's amazing power and faithfulness!



► You can read the verse listed here to help the children hear the answers from God's Word.

READ THE WORD

Everyone turn to Exodus 16 in your Bibles. I'm going to read and then ask some questions here. Your answers will help us to understand what is going on.

God had provided faithfully for His people so far. He provided direction, protection from the Egyptian armies, leadership through Moses, and riches from the Egyptian people. He provided a couple more things. Let's see what they are.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Exodus 16:2-3

? Read Exodus 16:2-3 to the students. **What were the children of Israel complaining to Moses and Aaron about?** *They were hungry. They were remembering the food they had as slaves in Egypt. They were accusing Moses and Aaron of bringing them to the wilderness to die.*

Exodus 16:11-12

? Listen to Exodus 16:11-12. Read the verses to the students. **What did God hear?** *He heard the people complain.*

Exodus 17:3

? What did God say He would give them to eat? *Meat and bread.*

? But soon, they came up with another complaint. Listen to Exodus 17:3. Read the verses to the students. **What were they complaining about now?** *They were thirsty. They needed water.*

Exodus 17:6

? God heard again. Listen to what God did. Read Exodus 17:6 to the students. **What did God do?** *He gave them water from a rock so the people could drink.*

Discover the Truth

Wow. God is sure faithful, good, kind, and patient, isn't He? He did so much for the Israelites and it seemed all they did was complain.

God had honored His promises made hundreds of years before. And now He was providing all of their basic needs. I wonder if you noticed something here. Whenever the Israelites got frustrated, they complained, whined, and blamed Moses and Aaron for their troubles. They were not depending on God to provide. They complained instead of going to God in prayer and trusting that He would help them just as He had helped them so many times in the past.

The people of Israel were not faithful to God. Yet God remained so loving and faithful to His people. He is truly a good God.



FAITHFUL

(Refer to Attributes poster)



Pack a Backpack

MATERIALS

Two each of the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy bar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compass (or map) | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Coins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks, cap, clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible |

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the class into two relay teams and give each team a backpack. Place the items to be packed into two piles, one for each team, at the other end of the room. On the "go" signal, the first person runs to the items, grabs the backpack, and runs back. The next person puts the backpack on, runs to the items, puts one item in the backpack, then runs back and hands the backpack to the next person in line. Each team continues this relay until the backpack is packed and has been returned to the starting line. The first team to pack all of the items into their backpack is the winner. After the relay is finished, take the items from the backpacks one by one. Help the children see what God provided for the Israelites that was like each of the items.

- Compass—pillar of cloud and of fire provided direction like a compass
- Flashlight—the pillar of fire was like a flashlight giving light in the dark

- Socks & hat—clothing didn't wear out
- Energy bars—manna, quail, food
- Water bottle—water from the rock
- Coins—silver and gold, riches from the Egyptians
- Bible—they didn't yet have the written Word, but they had God's promises to Abraham, to Moses, and to them to depend on and to encourage them

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God provided the Israelites with everything they needed. He gave them riches and clothing from the Egyptians. He guided them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He protected them from Pharaoh and his warriors by allowing them to cross on dry ground and then drowning the Egyptians in the sea. When they were hungry, He provided food. When they were thirsty, He gave them water from a rock. God was faithful to all of His promises to take care of the Israelites.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

We have talked about a lot today. First of all, we talked about God's promise to free Abram's descendants from slavery in a strange land. These promises were made hundreds of years before it ever happened. God told Abram that his people would be slaves for 400 years but that God would judge the people in the strange land and Abram's descendants would

come out with great possessions. And all of that did occur when Moses led the people out of Egypt—an event we call the Exodus.

God also promised to provide for His people. And we know that He did. He protected them in a miraculous way when they crossed the Red Sea; He drowned the Egyptian army and the 600 chariots; He provided direction in the desert by a cloud and fire; He provided riches, food, water, and clothing so His people would survive. Our God is the great provider and promise-keeper. We can know that He truly is the Lord God.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

I have learned a big lesson from this study. Let me share it with you. God was so faithful to His people. He promised to care for them. He had cared for them in the past. The people had no reason to doubt God, and yet they did! They complained and whined to Moses and Aaron. They accused Moses of wanting to kill them off in the desert. They continually turned their backs on the amazing things God had done for them in the past. And yet, we know that God did continue to bless them by keeping His promises and providing for them.

I think we all are like the Israelites sometimes, and we need to learn a lesson from them. Don't we all complain about things? Don't we forget what God promises in His Word—to take care of us, to comfort us, to protect us, to guide us? It is so much easier to complain than to turn to God in prayer.

The Israelites forgot so often to pray to God—but instead ran to Moses and blamed him for their troubles. We often want to blame others for things that happen to us. And we forget to pray that God would help us through our hard times. We forget that He has promised to be faithful to His children—and He never lies. He is always good and will help us in every situation.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them.”



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for His faithfulness to provide, protect, guide, and comfort in all situations.
- Ask God for a heart that will turn to Him for help instead of complaining, whining, or blaming others for our troubles.